

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 05216 220007Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8281
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5216

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SUBJECT: JUNIOR MINISTERS NAMED

REF: (A) JAKARTA 4513, (B) JAKARTA 4033

1. PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS NAMED THE SIX NEW JUNIOR MINISTERS. THEY WILL BE INSTALLED ON APRIL 22. THE ONLY SURPRISE WAS THE NAMING OF MRS. LASIYAH SUTANTO, CURRENTLY GENERAL CHAIRMAN OF THE GOLKAR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION KOWANI, AS JUNIOR MINISTER FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN. ANOTHER SENIOR KOWANI OFFICIAL, MRS. SUDARMONO, HAD EARLIER BEEN TAPPED FOR THAT JOB (REFERENCE A). OTHER JUNIOR MINISTERS ARE AS LISTED IN REFERENCE B. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THREE OF THE NEW JUNIOR MINISTERS, THE REST TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

2. JUNIOR MINISTER FOR FOOD PRODUCTION: IR. ACHMAD AFFANDI. AS CURRENT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FOOD CROPS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AFFANDI BRINGS A GREAT DEAL OF PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN KEY AGRICULTURAL FIELDS TO HIS IMPORTANT NEW POST. AT THE SAME TIME,
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JAKART 05216 220007Z

MANY OF THE PARTICULAR PROGRAMS HE HAS MANAGED AT AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN LESS THAN COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL, RAISING SOME QUESTION ABOUT HIS MANAGERIAL ABILITY. HE IS ALSO KNOWN AS AN AMBITIOUS MAN, COGNIZANT OF HIS PREROGATIVES AND SOMETHING OF AN EMPIRE BUILDER. AFTER SOME PERIOD OF STRAIN IN MISSION RELATIONS WITH AFFANDI (DUE TO NOW RESOLVED PROBLEMS WITH USAID CONTRACTORS IN INDONESIA),

AFFANDI HAS RECENTLY BEEN FAR MORE ACCESSIBLE TO AND COOPERATIVE WITH US.

3. AFFANDI IS A 50 YEAR OLD SUDANESE. HE WAS EDUCATED IN DUTCH-RUN HIGH SCHOOLS AND RECEIVED A DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI) FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE. HE ALSO STUDIED FOR A YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY. AFTER AN EARLY CAREER IN TEACHING IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND LESSER AGRICULTURE SCHOOLS, AFFANDI JOINED THE FACULTY OF THE BOGOR AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (IPB) IN THE LATE 1950'S. FROM THERE HE MOVED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE., ULTIMATELY BECOMING DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND LATER FOR FOOD CROPS. HE SERVED AS AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AT THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN THE NETHERLANDS FROM 1969-71 AND HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY OVERSEAS TO AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CONFERENCES. HE IS ARTICULATE AND FORCEFUL AND SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH. HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE FOUR CHILDREN, TWO BOYS AND TWO GIRLS.

4. JUNIOR MINISTER FOR COOPERATIVES: MAJ. GEN. BUSTANIL ARIFIN SH. ARIFIN HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE HEAD OF THE STATE RICE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OPERATION, BULOG (HE WILL CONTINUE TO RUN BULOG IN HIS NEW POSITION). HE ADMITS TO KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT THE NON-AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF COOPERATIVES, BUT PROMISES TO BRING NEW ENERGY AND POLITICAL CLOUT (HE HAS FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 05216 220007Z

SUHARTOS) TO THE MUCH-BALLYHOOED BUT SO FAR INEFFECTIVE INDONESIAN COOPERATIVES PROGRAM. ARIFIN HAS BEEN VERY ACCESSIBLE AND HELPFUL TO THE MISSION. THERE ARE RECURRING RUMORS, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND/OR HIS WIFE ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION.

5. ARIFIN WAS BORN IN PADANG, WEST SUMATRA IN 1925, BUT SPENT MOST OF HIS CHILDHOOD IN ACEH. HE JOINED THE INDONESIAN MILITARY DURING THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DUTCH, SERVING MUCH OF HIS EARLY CAREER IN SUMATRA. AS A SPECIALIST IN MILITARY LOGISTICS, HE BECAME INVOLVED IN RICE PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE EARLY 1960'S WHILE SERVING IN ACEH. IN 1969 HE JOINED BULOG, RISING TO CHIEF OF BULOG IN 1973. ARIFIN SERVED AS INDONESIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK IN 1972 AND HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD FREQUENTLY. ARIFIN SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, HAS BEEN MARRIED FOR 25 YEARS AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN, A DAUGHTER AND THREE SONS.

6. JUNIOR MINISTER FOR TRANSMIGRATION: MARTONO. MARTONO IS ONE OF SUHARTO'S LEAST INSPIRING CABINET APPOINTMENTS. A STALWART OF THE GOVERNMENT POLITICAL PARTY GOLKAR AND CHAIRMAN OF ITS INEFFECTIVE SMALL FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS HKTI, MARTONO BRINGS A VARIED BACKGROUND BUT

LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE IN TRANSMIGRATION AFFAIRS TO HIS NEW JOB. THE MISSION HAS HAD LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH MARTONO.

7. MARTONO IS 51 YEARS OLD AND A CENTRAL JAVANESE. HE WAS TRAINED IN DUTCH-RUN SCHOOLS, STUDIED PHILOSOPHY AT JOGJAKARTA'S GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY AND PSYCHOLOGY IN THE NETHERLANDS. HE FOUGHT BRIEFLY WITH THE ARMY DURING THE REVOLT AGAINST THE DUTCH BUT EMBARKED ON A CIVILIAN TEACHING CAREER AFTER THE WAR. IN THE LATE 1950'S HE BECAME AN OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SERVED AS EDUCATION ATTACHE AT THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO FROM 1960-64 AND HEADED THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION'S FILM SENSOR BOARD FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 JAKART 05216 220007Z

RETURNING FROM JAPAN. HE BECAME VERY ACTIVE IN GOLKAR AFFAIRS IN THE MID-1960'S, RISING TO BE ONE OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE GOLKAR CENTRAL LEADERSHIP BOARD IN 1973. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. MARTONO IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR SONS.
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